

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The management alternatives describe overall management concepts and the alternate ways in which the Historic Site would apply the management prescriptions.

### ***MANAGEMENT ZONES***

The management zones, or management areas, identify how the Historic Site would manage different areas to achieve a combination of desired resource conditions and visitor experiences. The planning team developed the following management prescriptions for the Historic Site:

- Commemorative Zone
- Cultural Zone
- Development Zone
- Maintenance Zone
- Natural Zone
- Open Space Zone
- Orientation Zone
- Recreation Zone
- Special Use Zone

The location and size of each management zone would depend upon the overall emphasis of each alternative.

### ***FORMULATION OF ALTERNATIVES***

The planning team developed the management alternatives, including the preferred alternative, based on the issues or concerns, desired future conditions, and visitor experiences articulated by the general public, NPS staff, subject-matter specialists, park users, and the neighboring community of West Branch. The alternatives describe the overall management concepts and the alternative ways in which the Historic Site would apply the management zones to specific areas.

### **ALTERNATIVE A (PREFERRED)**

This alternative is both the preferred and environmentally preferred alternative and the emphasis would be on commemorating the cultural heritage and life of President Herbert Hoover. Natural and cultural resources would serve as symbols of significant events and influences on the character and career of this great American. The interpretation program would provide the public with opportunities to use the Historic Site's tangible resources and Servicewide themes to make personal connections to the significance of the Hoover story and heritage of the area. Programs would provide new and innovative ways to present President Hoover's contributions to the U.S. and the World while maintaining the park's natural and cultural resources. The landscape and visitor facilities would support a

commemorative-like atmosphere with opportunities for the public to spend time reflecting upon the life and significance of Herbert Hoover.

As the environmentally preferred alternative, the preservation of the cultural landscape, as identified by President Hoover, and associated historic structures maintains and provides an appropriate and safe setting for the public to understand and appreciate his birthplace. Restoration of the native prairie and removal of modern facilities from the floodplain will preserve important aspects of both natural and cultural resources while providing a wide choice of activities in a protected environment. These activities will ensure the continued existence and access to important historical and natural resources for many generations to come.

Estimated development costs for this alternative would total approximately \$3.5 million, including the rehabilitation of the Visitor Center, Laban Miles house, P.T. Smith house, and Varney house, and the construction of a new Maintenance Facility. These facility improvements and new construction would cost an additional \$8,000 a year to operate and maintain. This alternative would require 6.67 FTE of additional staff with an annual cost of \$250,000.

## **ALTERNATIVE B**

This alternative would emphasize the commemoration of Herbert Hoover. Natural and cultural resources would serve as symbols of significant events and influences on the character and career of this great American. The interpretation program would provide the public with opportunities to use the Historic Site's tangible resources to make personal connections to the significance of the Hoover story. The NPS would collaborate with partners such as the Hoover Presidential Library to create a comprehensive experience for visitors to gain understanding of the resources and significance of the complex. The landscape and visitor facilities would support the commemorative-like atmosphere with opportunities for the public to spend time reflecting upon the life and significance of Herbert Hoover.

Estimated development costs for this alternative would total approximately \$4.9 million, including the rehabilitation of the Visitor Center, P.T. Smith house, Varney house, and the construction of a new Maintenance Facility and a new Orientation Center with new parking and road connections between the center and historic site. These facility improvements and new construction would cost an additional \$10,000 a year to operate and maintain. This alternative would require 7.67 FTE of additional staff with an annual cost of \$287,000.

## **ALTERNATIVE C**

This alternative would emphasize the preservation and protection of natural and cultural resources and scientific restoration of the tallgrass prairie. Visitor services and facilities would have the least possible impact on resources. Scientific management of the prairie ecosystem would take precedence over recreational use and interpretive access and

minimize intrusive features on the park's landscape. Interpretive programs and visitors activities may limit physical access to historic structures to prevent the adverse impact of visitor use.

Estimated development costs of this alternative would total approximately \$5.0 million, including the rehabilitation of the Visitor Center, P.T. Smith house, and Varney house, and the construction of a new Maintenance Facility and a new Orientation Center near the Isaac Miles farm with new parking and road connections. These facility improvements and new construction would cost an additional \$10,000 a year to operate and maintain. This alternative would require 7.67 FTE of additional staff with an annual cost of \$292,000.

#### **ALTERNATIVE D**

This alternative would emphasize the accommodation of visitors with multiple opportunities to learn the entire meaning of Herbert Hoover's life story. The Historic Site would manage cultural and natural resources to support high levels of visitor access and use and interpretation and education programming of the park's historical significance.

Estimated development costs of this alternative would total approximately \$5.4 million, including the rehabilitation of the Visitor Center, P.T. Smith house, and Varney house; the construction of a new Maintenance Facility and a new Orientation Center with new parking and road connections; and the reconstruction of the House of the Maples. These facility improvements and new construction would cost an additional \$15,000 to operate and maintain. This alternative would require 9.67 FTE of additional staff with an annual cost of \$376,000.

#### **ALTERNATIVE E (NO ACTION)**

This alternative provided as a baseline for comparison, would maintain current resource and visitor experience conditions. Management of cultural and natural resources would remain reactive, rather than proactive. This alternative would not provide additional visitor services, nor build any new facilities. It would not meet all legal mandates. Where still suitable and feasible, the 1970 *Master Plan* and its 1978 *Addendum* would continue to provide primary management guidance. The Historic Site, however, would not carry out all of its recommendations.

This alternative would not include any facility development or rehabilitation, nor would it require additional staff.

